

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /102 W
-----104904 250549Z /11

R 241819Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2021
INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, XM, FR
SUBJECT: CGT INTEREST IN LATIN AMERICA

1. SUMMARY. WITHIN THE PAST FEW WEEKS, THE COMMUNIST CONTROLLED CGT HAS HAD AT LEAST TWO DELEGATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA. THE MOST RECENT ONE HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO TRY TO SET UP AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF RENAULT WORKERS, WHICH APPARENTLY WILL TRY TO INCLUDE THE UNIONS IN THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT OWNED COMPANY'S ARGENTINIAN AND MEXICAN PLANTS. END SUMMARY.

2. QUITE APART FROM THE VISIT TO MEXICO OF FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCF) LEADER GEORGES MARCHAIS, THE COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED FRENCH GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR RECENTLY HAS HAD DELEGATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA, A RARE OCCURRENCE; AND HAS BEEN SHOWING SPECIAL SIGNS OF INTER-
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EST IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD. SOMETIME PRIOR TO MID-APRIL, A CGT STUDY GROUP VISITED COSTA RICA, VENEZUELA, PANAMA AND MEXICO. A VERY EXTENSIVE REPORT ON THAT TRIP, IN THE FORM OF AN INTERVIEW WITH CGT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER GILBERT JULIS, WAS THE FEATURE ARTICLE IN THE SPECIAL MAY DAY EDITORIAL OF THE CGT'S POPULAR MAGAZINE, LA VIE OUVRIERE. (JULIS, WHO LED THE CGT

VISIT TO THE US IN 1977, WAS APPARENTLY IN CHARGE OF THIS GROUP TOO. TYPICALLY, HOWEVER, NO OTHER NAMES OR ANY DATES WERE PROVIDED). JULIS CLAIMED TO HAVE MET WITH ALMOST ALL THE TRADE UNIONS IN THE COUNTRIES VISITED, THE RESULT OF HAVING ESTABLISHED CONTACTS WITH THEM AT TWO INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION MEETINGS HELD IN COSTA RICA, AT THE START OF THE TRIP. THE GENERAL THEMES OF THE ARTICLE WERE THE REPRESSION IN CHILE; AND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS.

3. SOME TWO WEEKS LATER THIS ARTICLE WAS FOLLOWED BY A BRIEFER REPORT ON THE MAY 1 DISTURBANCES IN SANTIAGO CHILE BY ANDRE FURST. FURST WAS IDENTIFIED AS THE CGT'S SPECIAL ENVOY TO CHILE, APPARENTLY SENT IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION ALLUDED TO THE ARTICLE FROM THE CHILEAN MAY DAY COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

4. MOST RECENTLY, ON MAY 22, TWO CGT OFFICIALS APPEARED IN BUENOS AIRES, AND HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTED BY AFP. ROGER SYLVAIN, A MEMBER OF RENAULT'S CENTRAL COMITE D'ENTREPRISE, AND ALAIN STERN, OFFICIAL OF THE CGT METAL WORKERS FEDERATION, WERE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT WORKERS IN RENAULT PLANTS ALL AROUND THE WORLD WILL BE ORGANIZING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO ESTABLISH COMMON BASIC DEMANDS. THE CGT OFFICIALS WERE REPORTED AS SAYING THAT THEY HAD VISITED ARGENTINA TO ESTABLISH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTACT WITH THE UNIONS THERE TO DISCUSS THAT MEETING; AND THAT THEY WERE PROCEEDING ON TO MEXICO (WHERE RENAULT ALSO HAS AN ASSEMBLY PLANT) TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSIONS. THEY WERE ALSO QUOTED AS ATTACKING SOME OF THE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES OF THE RENAULT CORDOBA PLANT FOR BEING INCONSISTENT WITH THOSE OF A NATIONALIZED FRENCH FIRM.

5. COMMENT: THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS PROJECTED WORLD CONFERENCE OF RENAULT WORKERS CAME AS A SURPRISE TO RENAULT OFFICIALS, WHO ARE LOOKING IN TO THE REPORT. THEY WERE AWARE OF A RENAULT DAY BEING PLANNED BY THE NON-COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS FEDERATION (IMF) FOR LATE THIS YEAR; BUT THIS IS CLEARLY SOMETHING QUITE DIFFERENT. IN THAT CONNECTION, E NOTE THE INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALWORKERS FEDERATIONS (ICF) PREDICTION OF SOME WEEKS BACK THAT A FLURRY OF THIS KIND OF ACTIVITY, AIMED AT THE MULTINATIONALS, BUT POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IN MOTIVATION AND WITHOUT MUCH REAL SUBSTANCE, WAS TO BE EXPECTED (SEE PARIS 10664 NOTAL).
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